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767.00/6-3053

EXCISE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

ROME ATHENS US POLAD TRIESTE

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 30, 1953

Our despatch 1344 of June 22, 1953

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ACTION DEPT.

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ROME ATHENS US POLAD TRIESTE

PERIPHERAL: ALBANIA - Attitudes of Refugee

The subject refugee, [redacted] was a member of BASHKIMI SHQIPTAR prior to his escape from Albania in 1950. [redacted] is in complete agreement with the main theme of the resistance organization, that is, unity of all anti-Communists in Albania regardless of party preference. Pamphlets circulated by the group restate the theme often. Because most members of Bashkimi are young and fanatical anti-Communists, they have no previous party loyalties or experiences which would tend to divide their efforts.

Pamphlets were distributed by the source in KERMEND at the rate of five or six per month to suspected anti-Communists or half-convicted Communists. A response usually came from students and businessmen. Army and SIGURIMI personnel are not circularized, and the source has no knowledge of opposition in those ranks. It was difficult to follow up pamphlets and to observe the reaction of the recipients. Occasionally a broader distribution was made for a show of strength and for improving the general morale of the organization.

The source had no knowledge of the authorship of pamphlets or of the methods by which they were financed and printed. Some pamphlets were designed for distribution on specific days, such as November 28, Albanian Liberation Day. The source believes that history should not play an important role in the propaganda effort because it would tend to divide the various generations into factions supporting one or another "old" regime. What the people want, according to Baja, is a "new" regime completely different from the past.

Also, no live anti-Communists persons in or out of Albania should be mentioned in propaganda because the Bashkimi should not be associated with any specific party. He, himself, would write more attacks on the fear and terror created by the Hoxha regime, fanning a spirit of revenge. The source is obviously anxious that much Communist blood be shed whenever an opportunity should arise.

The cell of bashkimi with which the source met studied no body of doctrine. As far as he knows, the group has no definite plan of action in the event of a popular uprising.

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Bashkimi may help persons escape from Albania to Greece and in extreme cases also to Yugoslavia. The organization fears collaboration between Belgrade and Tirana, therefore for security reasons it prefers that members go to Greece when the occasion demands. [initials] stated that if he were the chief he would absolutely forbid people to go to Yugoslavia even though he considers Greece an enemy of his country. He remembers Yugoslav action against Albanian nationalists from 1946 to 1948, and he judges from Yugoslav policy in Kossovo that the government holds the same opinion today of Albanian national aspirations. [initials]

The Department is requested to forward processed copies of this despatch to Rome and Athens, and two copies to U.S. Polad, Trieste

A. John Cope, Jr.
Acting U. S. Political Adviser

cc: Belgrade

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